

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2086

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5841

STADIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USIRJC, AFSP

SUBJ: USIRJCS

REF: TEHRAN 5518

1. EVENING OF JUNE 18 AMBASSADOR TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY AT A SOCIAL OCCASION TO MENTION BRIEFLY TO MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE ANSARY OUR CONCERNS ABOUT SLOWDOWN IN IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES. HE ALSO HANDED HIM A PIECE OF PAPER WHICH IDENTIFIED SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS IN SPECIFIC DETAIL. FOLLOWING MORNING ANSARY CALLED TO SAY THAT ALTHOUGH OUR PRESENTATION HAD BEEN WORDED VERY DIPLOMATICALLY, IT WAS CLEAR NOT ALL WAS WELL ON THE JOINT COMMISSION FRONT. ACCORDINGLY, HE HAD CONVOKED A MEETING WITH HIS PRINCIPAL DEPUTY MINISTER MAHRAN AND VICE MINISTER VAFA TO REVIEW THE BIDDING. AT THIS POINT HE LEARNED THAT MEHRAN ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE HAD CONVOKED A MEETING OF UNDERSECRETARIES FROM CONCERNED GOI MINISTRIES FOR THE SAME PURPOSE LAST WEEK. THERE SEEM TO BE A CONSENSUS THAT THERE IS QTE A CONCEPTUAL DIFFERENCE UNQTE BETWEEN US AND THE GOI AS TO HOW WE OUGHT TO PROCEED IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS. ANSARY SUGGESTED AMBASSADOR AND DCM MEET WITH HIM, MEHRAN AND VAFA AFTERNOON OF

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JUNE 24 TO DISCUSS THE MATTER, TO WHICH WE AGREED.

2. WHILE WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN WE BELIEVE QTE
CONCEPTUAL DIFFERENCE UNQTE RELATES PRINCIPALLY TO THE
QUESTION OF GOI EITHER COLLECTIVELY OR THROUGH AGENCY
TO AGENCY AGREEMENTS PROVIDING FRONT MONEY TO PAY FOR
ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES NEEDED TO SUP-
PORT TECHNICAL COOPERATION PERSONNEL. WASHINGTON WILL RECALL
PARTICULARLY STRONG VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THIS SUBJECT,
ESPECIALLY BY MEHRAN, THAT GOI BUYING US SERVICES AND
THAT IT WILLING AND ABLE TO PAY ITS BILLS ONCE
SERVICE IS RENDERED. THEREFORE, US DEMAND FOR FRONT
MONEY IS CONDESCENDING AND IMPLIES LACK OF TRUST AND
FAITH IN GOI PROBITY. IF THIS IN IN FACT THE PROBLEM,
AND GOI HOLDS TO ITS POSITION, WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH POSSI-
BILITY THAT TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES WILL NOT GO
FORWARD UNLESS USG IS PREPARED TO FOOT TC BILLS AND COLLECT
LATER.

3. JUNE 24 MEETING MAY ALSO PROVIDE US AN OPPORTUNITY
TO PURSUE TACK OUTLINED IN REFTTEL. APPRECIATE THERE-
FORE URGENT CONSIDERATION QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTTEL
AS WELL AS ADVICE ON POSITION WE SHOULD TAKE WITH
RESPECT TO MATTER RAISED IN FOREGOING PARAGRAPH.
PLEASE ADVISE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS JUNE 24.
HELMS

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